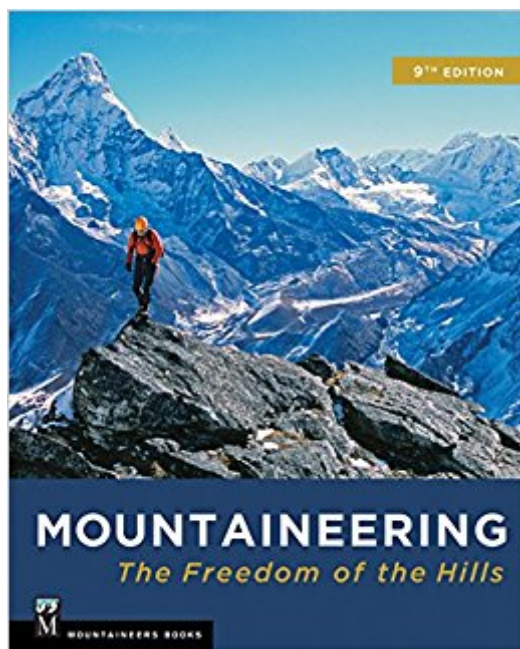


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# Mountaineering: The Freedom Of The Hills, 9th Edition



## Synopsis

The definitive guide to mountains and climbing . . . Conrad Anker For nearly 60 years it's been revered as the bible of mountaineering and now it's even better than ever. *Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills* is the text beloved by generations of new climbers the standard for climbing education around the world where it has been translated into 12 languages. For the all-new 9th Edition, committees composed of active climbers and climbing educators reviewed every chapter of instruction, and discussed updates with staff from the American Alpine Club (AAC), the American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE), and the Access Fund. They also worked with professional members of the American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA), to review their work and ensure that the updated textbook includes the most current best practices for both alpine and rock climbing instruction. From gear selection to belay and repel techniques, from glacier travel to rope work, to safety, safety, and more safety there is no more comprehensive and thoroughly vetted training manual for climbing than the standard set by *Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills*, 9th Edition. Significant updates to this edition include: New alignment with AAC's nationwide universal belay standard Expanded and more detailed avalanche safety info, including how to better understand avalanches, evaluate hazards, travel safely in avy terrain, and locate and rescue a fellow climber in an avalanche Newly revamped chapters on clothing and camping All-new illustrations reflecting the latest gear and techniques created by artist John McMullen, former art director of *Climbing* magazine Review of and contributions to multiple sections by AMGA-certified guides Fresh approach to the Ten Essentials now making the iconic list easier to recall

## Book Information

Paperback: 624 pages

Publisher: Mountaineers Books; 9 edition (October 1, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1680510045

ISBN-13: 978-1680510041

Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 130 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #89,647 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Mountaineering > Rock Climbing](#) #76 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Mountaineering > Mountain Climbing](#) #154 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hiking & Camping > Instructional](#)

## Customer Reviews

The Mountaineers was established in 1906 in Washington, a state with inspiring and abundant mountain peaks. In addition to the community of outdoor enthusiasts it fosters, the organization's mission is to teach outdoor skills. Over the years, hundreds of thousands have learned outdoor safety and skills from The Mountaineers, ranging from climbing to skiing to kayaking, and much more. Some of the world's most elite climbers have been and continue to be members of The Mountaineers.

This book was the primary text for an Intermediate Backcountry Skills course at Saratoga, California's West Valley College. If you're just starting to explore the backcountry and need an all-inclusive primer, it's pretty complete. The first 130 pages set the stage for beginners, and they're a good refresher for experienced backcountry travelers. The climbing sections complement live instruction in belaying, rappelling and footwork on faces and cracks. They also give a clear explanation of knots for rescue and climbing. Course instructors provided no guidance on footwork and climbing skills since the course was aimed at backcountry rescue, so the book was a great help for a beginner to climbing. The Glacier Travel chapter discusses useful self-rescue techniques that will get you out of trouble on rock as well as on glaciers. The Alpine Rescue chapter shows basic anchor construction, with diagrams much clearer than those on roped rescue with mechanical advantage systems in the Glacier Travel chapter. There's also a good description of rope ascent with a Texas Prusik system. There is no mention of brake/rappel racks, the best device for rappelling. The book presents the Figure Eight and the Munter hitch instead. Both are useful in rappelling, but a brake rack is the best way to control descent with a patient. A Rescue Eight (Figure Eight with ears) is easier to tie off than a basic Figure Eight, which also isn't mentioned. Nowhere does the book explain principles of mechanical advantage systems. You'll need to take the word of the book that they just work, until you construct and use them in the field. As a former engineer, I wanted to know how. There's a little better explanation in Tyson and Loomis' *Climbing Self Rescue: Improvising Solutions for Serious Situations* (Mountaineers Outdoor Expert) - it explains friction losses and the effect of moving pulleys in a mechanical advantage system, but could be clearer. Overall, *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills* is the backcountry traveler's bible. You'll want additional information if SAR is your interest, but it will get you started.

This book is pretty amazing. I am impressed by the absolutely anal detail in everything. I purchased this book for some tips on knot skills, but I have read bits and pieces for entertainment as well (and

even learned a few useful tips). I purchased a copy for a friend of mine who is new to the great outdoors in general. This makes it easy on me, so I don't have to explain every "common sense" detail to him. This book does it for me! Experienced or not, this book is a great read. I find myself laughing at how absolutely detailed it is.

This book is essential to anyone looking to get started in mountaineering. It has everything from how to pick clothing to basic rope knots and how to watch the weather. I am currently taking a rock climbing class in school and this book very nicely runs down the important basics that is needed in exploring the outdoors. Take the time to read it because this book is helpful especially when read and taken seriously. It can easily replace several other books because it can covers a wide range of material, at least at the beginner level.

Someone once told me "Mountaineering is just like backpacking with less margin for error". Of course the reality is that there are additional skills, concepts, and so on that you absolutely need to know before hauling yourself onto a rock face or glacier. This book contains all of that - the accumulated wealth of knowledge based on the experience of more than 40 of the world's best mountaineers. What makes this book so unrivaled?- Topics are effectively separated into chapters that allow you to find what you need fast- Information is presented with photos and diagrams to clarify each and every detail- The writing style is pleasant to read - neither frivolous nor obfuscating- Everything you ever wanted to know (about mountaineering) is in the bookBuy several copies, sleep with one as a pillow in the hopes the information will naturally osmose into your brain, love mountaineering, be safe, and in your many travels please respect our natural resources!

There are many reasons the 1963 Everest Expedition chose James Ramsey Ullman to chronicle their adventure. No armchair mountaineer, Ullman's writing for his sport exudes an infectious enthusiasm, an enthusiasm that makes one wish there was a time machine, a time machine that could whisk us and our friends back to the early days of mountaineering. What was it like confronting the ice dragons that still lived in the remaining blank spots on map? Armed with little more than tweed coats, wood-shafted ice axes, and a lot of courage; Ullman gives us a wonderful window into this bygone world.

This book is unquestionably the best all-inclusive mountaineering reference around. Covers virtually every topic you need to know about to play in the hills. Living in Colorado, I turn to this book

frequently for information. It's well written and easy to understand by anyone. About the only thing I could think that would make it better is to add some nice glossy photos to it, but perhaps then it wouldn't seem like the timeless mountaineering bible that it is. If you spend time in the mountains, this book is a must own. The information could save your life at some point.

I deliberately ordered the 7th ed. instead of the new edition. Same stuff less price. Recommended reading for outdoor lovers and mountain trekkers.

I thought this book was in general great. I think the author could trim out some parts of the book just to focus maybe on core technical stuff. Overall, I feel it tries to do too much and ends up being too superficial in some areas. I'd have liked more coverage of various knots, for example. To summarize my feelings, the book is chock full of great information, but it's not exactly the "bible" simply because the entire field is too large for any single book to cover entirely. However compared to other single books on this topic, this one has no equal.

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